

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0761

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LY, EG, TS
SUBJ: QADHAFI THE PEACEMAKER

1. QADHAFI'S CURRENT CONFIGURATION AS A SEEKER OF PEACE
WITH HIS TWO ARAB NEIGHBORS RESEMBLES PREVIOUS PERFORMANCES
IN THIS ROLE OVER PAST FEW YEARS. FROM TRIPOLI VANTAGE
POINT WE WOULD ASCRIBE SEVERAL MOTIVES TO HIS LATEST EGYPTIAN
POLICIES. HIGH ON THE LIST OF OBJECTIVES IS CESSATION OF
ANTI-LIBYAN CAIRO RADIO BROADCASTS WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE
ENJOYED A SUBSTANTIAL AUDIENCE AMONG LIBYANS. WE HEAR FROM
A NUMBER OF SOURCES THAT QADHAFI HAS BEEN GENUINELY BUGGED
BY MUHAYSHI'S ACCUSATIONS EVEN THOUGH MUHAYSHI HIMSELF
APPARENTLY ENJOYS LIMITED RESPECT AMONG LIBYANS. RECENT
ADDITION OF BAKKOUSH TO EGYPTIAN BROADCAST STABLE
PROBABLY CAUSED EVEN DEEPER PAIN SINCE BAKKOUSH STILL
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WELL REGARDED IN LIBYA AND RATED AS AN IMPRESSIVE AND
INSPIRING SPEAKER.

2. INTERNAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS CONSTI-
TUTE ADDITONAL INCENTIVE FOR COOLING SITUATION WITH
EGYPT. THOUGH LIBYANS TEND TO BE SOMEWHAT ANTI-
EGYPTIAN, THEY STILL REGARD CAIRO AS THE CENTER OF

THINGS ARAB AND ACCESS TO IT AS IMPORTANT. THE EXTENT OF THE ANTI-EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN HAS CLEARLY MET WITH WIDESPREAD DISAPPROVAL AMONG EDUCATED LIBYANS. ANOTHER COMPELLING FACTOR HAS BEEN THE REPEATED WARNINGS QADHAFI HAS RECEIVED FROM HIS TECHNOCRATS TO THE EFFECT THAT MANY DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS WOULD GRIND TO A HALT IF THE EXODUS OF EGYPTIAN TECHNICIANS AND WORKERS CONTINUED. FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE GREEN HILLS AGRICULTURAL PROJECT (NEAR BENGHAZI), AN ESPECIAL FAVORITE OF THE COLONEL'S, WAS ON THE VERGE OF SHUTDOWN FOR LACK OF EGYPTIANS. AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH EGYPT WILL ALLOW QADHAFI TO PERSUADE THE PEOPLE'S CONGRESSES THAT FURTHER EXPULSION OF EGYPTIANS IS UNNECESSARY AND HOPEFULLY REVERSE FLOW OF VOLUNTARY DEPARTURES. WE ALSO SUSPECT THAT EVEN POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS CAUSES SOME NERVOUSNESS IN TRIPOLI AND ENCOURAGES LIBYANS TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH EGYPT. FINALLY, THE PROSPECT OF GENEVA CONFERENCE CERTAINLY REQUIRES A GREATER DISPLAY OF ARAB UNITY AND PROVIDES CONVENIENT EXCUSE FOR OVERLOOKING PREVIOUS HARSH WORDS. QADHAFI STRESSED NEED FOR ARAB UNITY IN FACE OF ZIONIST ENEMY IN JUNE 2 SPEECH.

3. VIS-A-VIS TUNISIA, WE WOULD SEE QADHAFI'S MOTIVES AS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. BASIC MESSAGE TO THE TUNISIANS SEEMS TO BE THAT MOVEMENT TOWARD UNITY WILL VASTLY BENEFIT TUNISIA ECONOMICALLY. NO DOUBT THIS MESSAGE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SUGGESTIONS THAT ANTI-LIBYANS, CONFIDENTIAL

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SUCH AS PRIMIN NOUIRA, WILL HAVE TO GO IF PROGRESS TOWARD UNITY AND COOPERATION IS TO BE MADE. THOUGH PROSPECTS OF AN AGREEMENT WITH TUNISIANS NOW APPEAR VASTLY IMPROVED, QADHAFI LIKELY TO SEEK DELAY TUNISIANS REAL ACCESS TO OFFSHORE OIL WHICH, IF ACHIEVED, WOULD REDUCE INCENTIVES FOR "UNITY." AS WITH EGYPT, CONTINUED ACCESS TO TUNISIANS LABOR IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN LIBYAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

4. BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN QADHAFI'S LIBYA AND EGYPT AND TUNISIA REMAIN SUBSTANTIAL. MOST DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS, PARTICULARLY OUR ARAB COLLEAGUES IN TRIPOLI, TEND TO VIEW QADHAFI'S CURRENT PERFORMANCE AS MAINLY MANIPULATORY AND TRANSIENT AND FORECAST THAT NEXT YEAR WILL SEE A RESURGENCE OF TENSIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND HER NEIGHBORS EVEN THOUGH A TEMPORARY EASEMENT MAY BE ACHIEVED DURING COMING MONTHS. CARLE

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